



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 June 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports fourteen people have been charged with operating an identity theft ring that counterfeited credit cards from numbers stolen off patrons at Long Island, NY, restaurants. (See item [9](#))
- The Mail Tribune reports TSA officials have placed the Medford, OR, airport on a probationary status after the recent firing of two security employees who slept on the job and of a third who was arrested for the theft of a laptop computer. (See item [12](#))
- Reuters reports U.S. investigators say they have arrested an America Online employee for stealing the Internet provider's customer list and selling it to a purveyor of "spam" e-mail. (See item [29](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *June 23, Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal* — **Gas found near Sacramento.** A hitherto undiscovered natural gas reservoir has been found near Sacramento, CA, by Fidelis Energy, Inc. **Engineers have calculated the first well to be able to provide over 12 million cubic feet per day — enough natural gas when supplied to a power plant to provide electricity to more than 125,000 homes daily.** With 1,000 acres under lease at the gas field, called the North Franklin Project, Fidelis Energy could drill up to five more wells on the property, it says.

California is a net importer of natural gas and cannot produce enough gas to meet daily demand. This discovery could result in the state becoming more self-sufficient, Fidelis says. Source: <http://sanjose.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2004/06/21/day32.html>

2. *June 23, WPXI-TV (PA)* — **Greenpeace members climb smokestack in protest.** Four Greenpeace activists climbed the smokestack at a coal-fired power plant Wednesday, June 23, to secure a banner in protest of President Bush's energy policy. **The protesters climbed the 750-foot smokestack at the Hatfield's Ferry Power Station in Masontown, PA, and unfurled a 2,500-square-foot banner,** said Nancy Hwa, a Greenpeace spokesperson. The Hatfield's plant, owned by Allegheny Energy, is about 40 miles south of Pittsburgh, PA. "Our main concern right now is the safety of the people up on the stack. Obviously they are trespassing but we want to get them down safely," said Guy Fletcher, an Allegheny Energy spokesperson. Police said the protestors would be arrested and likely charged with trespassing. Source: <http://www.wpxi.com/news/3451376/detail.html>
3. *June 23, Reuters* — **Tight gasoline supplies a concern. U.S. fuel stockpiles are languishing well below average, leaving the world's largest energy consumer vulnerable to a summer gasoline inventory crunch or tight supplies of heating oil next winter, the Department of Energy said** on Wednesday, June 23. The tightening inventories of fuel come even as U.S. supplies of crude oil — the feedstock refiners use to make gasoline, diesel and other refined products — swell toward the middle of the average range, thanks in part to an Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decision to increase exports to the world market. U.S. gasoline supplies have declined for two weeks straight at a time of the year they normally rise in preparation for peak summer driving demand, leaving them 9 million barrels below the five-year average, according to the most recent government data. **The declines in supply come despite high domestic refining activity, underscoring a shortfall in fuel production capacity in the United States that has left it increasingly dependent on fuel imports.** The U.S. energy market is bracing for the upcoming July 4 holiday, typically the heaviest period of gasoline demand as drivers take to the roads for vacation. Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/040623/energy_fuel_government_1.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *June 23, Newsday* — **EPA says toxic chemical pollution up in 2002. Toxic chemical pollution from factories, power plants and other industrial facilities rose in 2002 – the most recent year data are available — for the first time in five years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported on June 22.** EPA officials said the five percent increase in toxic releases nationwide, to almost five billion pounds, was due to a single Arizona copper smelter. But an environmental group has charged that because the EPA relies on data supplied by polluting industries, the agency is actually drastically underestimating the amount of benzene, butadiene and other cancer-causing chemicals released into the environment. "The public is being exposed to far more toxic air pollution than the EPA acknowledges for the record," said Kelly Haragan of the Washington-based Environmental Integrity Project. **EPA officials yesterday acknowledged that they don't regularly check industry-supplied data by matching it up with real-world measurements in air, water and soil.** "We have no

evidence there are significant trends" in underreporting, said Kim Nelson, EPA's assistant administrator for environmental information.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-ustox233864600jun23.0.6031756.story?coll=ny-nationalnews-headlines>

5. *June 23, WHIO TV (Vandalia, OH)* — **Chemical leak forces road closures, evacuations. A chemical cloud covered a Vandalia, OH, field early Wednesday, June 23, and forced the evacuation of several homes. The incident happened on Castle Road, east of Interstate 75.** According to authorities, a motorist passing by the field noticed a cloud hovering over the roadway and called authorities. Upon arrival, firefighters found that the valve of one anhydrous ammonia tank had been opened and immediately closed several roads leading to the area. Officials said the chemical can cause burning eyes and breathing problems. According to authorities, the chemical is used by farmers in fields with their growing process. As a precaution, authorities evacuated around 10 homes, but the residents were allowed to return around 11 a.m. after the tank valve was closed. There were no injuries or health problems as a result of the chemical leak. **Vandalia police are now investigating to see if the leak was accidental or intentional.**

Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/3451454/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Air Force testing robot vehicles. The U.S. Air Force is testing whether a robotic vehicle can take the place of humans in guarding air bases and troops. One robot being tested is a Jeep-size, four-wheeled vehicle that has been equipped with radar, television cameras and an infrared scan to detect people, vehicles and other objects. It carries a breadbox-sized mini-robot that can be launched to search under vehicles, inside buildings and other small places.** Another robot is fashioned from an off-the-shelf, four-wheeled all-terrain vehicle, giving it added versatility because a human also can ride it like a normal ATV. Both vehicles can be remotely operated from laptop computers and can be equipped with remotely fired weapons, like an M-16 rifle or pepper spray. The vehicles can be programmed to patrol specific areas and then alert an operator by radio if they find something suspicious. They have loudspeakers and microphones for questioning intruders and the operator can pick from a variety of languages. A human always is in the loop because the military doesn't want to give machines complete discretion, said Walter Waltz, chief of robotic research for the Air Force Research Laboratory at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apwashington_story.asp?category=1152&slug=Robot%20Protection

7. *June 23, Washington Post* — **House approves Department of Defense spending.** The House overwhelmingly approved a \$417 billion spending bill yesterday that gives the Bush administration most of what it wants for the Pentagon in 2005. **The vote was 403 to 17 in favor of the annual spending bill, which funds new weapons, a missile defense system, military pay and benefits, and the global war on terrorism. It includes \$25 billion as well for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a sum that is viewed as only a first installment, with**

possibly larger outlays early next year. However, the political unanimity belied growing concerns in the House over the financial stresses posed by multifaceted U.S. military commitments. "It is becoming clearer with each passing day that these operations are generating great strains on the current force, in terms of both manning and equipment," said a report by the House Appropriations Committee. "The committee is deeply concerned that these stresses are creating many near and mid-term challenges which have yet to be fully factored into Department of Defense plans and budgets."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A61796-2004Jun 22.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *June 23, Agence France-Presse* — **French police uncover major euro counterfeit racket. French police have uncovered the biggest ever euro counterfeit racket since the introduction of the European single currency two years ago, arresting 22 people and seizing more than 200,000 forged notes**, officials said Wednesday, June 23. The suspects were detained Tuesday, June 22, in coordinated raids at several locations in the Paris suburbs, and are being held at the headquarters of anti-fraud police in the capital. At two laboratories police found fake ten euro and twenty euro notes worth a total of around 1.8 million euros (USD\$2.17 million). In addition the Bank of France believes some 145,000 notes had already been introduced into circulation.

Source: <http://www.eubusiness.com/afp/040623134534.0x7cxqc8>

9. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Fourteen charged in identity theft scheme. Fourteen people were charged Wednesday, June 23, with operating an identity theft ring that counterfeited credit cards from numbers stolen off patrons at Long Island, NY, restaurants. The phony cards were used to buy big-ticket merchandise that was later sold for cash, prosecutors said.** Five of those charged were indicted under the Organized Crime Control Act and charged with enterprise corruption, a felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison, said Nassau County District Attorney Denis Dillon. Other charges against the five include grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property, identity theft, forgery, and criminal possession of a forged instrument. Nine others were charged with various felonies and misdemeanors linked to the scheme, Dillon said. The investigation, which began in September 2002, netted more than \$600,000, Dillon said. Prosecutors declined to estimate how many consumers may have been victimized.

Source: http://cbsnewyork.com/topstories/topstoriesny_story_17513391_9.html

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Transportation Sector

10. *June 23, Transportation Security Administration* — **DHS delivers Guidance For Screening Partnership Program.** Asa Hutchinson, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, on June 23, released the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) "Guidance on the Screening Partnership Program" (SPP). **The**

document provides initial information for airports that may be interested in having private companies provide screeners. This option is available through a provision in the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA) that grants any airport the opportunity to "opt-out" of having federal passenger and baggage screeners and choose private security service companies to conduct screening operations under TSA management after November 19, 2004. "TSA is committed to having a transparent process and is partnering with the aviation industry and private vendors to ensure that they are well informed when determining if the Screening Partnership Program is appropriate for them," said Under Secretary Hutchinson. The Guidance is available on the TSA website.

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198 00b19a9>

11. *June 23, Associated Press* — **NYC subway passenger is shot and killed. A passenger was shot dead in a Manhattan subway train, on June 22, as passengers screamed and dropped to the floor for cover.** Investigators believe Tuesday's shooting stemmed from an earlier dispute between two men who fled the scene and the victim, Nelson Stanford, who police said had an extensive criminal record. **It was the third shooting in the subway in the last month.** The other two victims survived. Police were searching for two suspects Wednesday and had made no arrests, said Sgt. Michael Wysokowski, a police spokesman.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-06-23-nyc-subway_x.htm

12. *June 23, Mail Tribune (Oregon)* — **Government faults airport security. Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials have placed the Medford, OR, airport on a probationary status after the recent firing of two security employees who slept on the job and of a third who was arrested for the theft of a laptop computer.** There was also a security lapse last weekend while passengers were boarding a plane. Airport director Bern Case said two night shift employees were caught napping during the past six months by other airport workers, and the incidents were confirmed by surveillance tapes. With fines for security breaches at some airports amounting to as much as \$250,000, Case said the airport notified TSA officials immediately about the problem. Another security employee, Andrew Cameron Welburn, 37, of Medford, faces a felony charge of first-degree theft for allegedly taking a laptop computer from the lost and found, where it was stored after a passenger misplaced it. **TSA officials say they are concerned about a security lapse last weekend in which a passenger reportedly walked out of the line heading for a plane, went over to the fence and may have been handed something from the other side.**

Source: <http://www.mailtribune.com/archive/2004/0623/local/stories/0 1local.htm>

13. *June 23, Department of Transportation* — **Des Moines International receives new air traffic control system.** With the commissioning of a new state-of-the-art air traffic control system, controllers managing the skies over Des Moines International now have a 21st century tool to minimize delays and maximize safety for passengers flying in and out of the Hawkeye State capital, a senior transportation official said. Karen Bhatia, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, was in Des Moines on June 23 to demonstrate the airport's new Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS). **The STARS digital radar system is the centerpiece of the U.S. Department of Transportation's plan to modernize the U.S. airspace system, and gives air traffic controllers a full-color display of planes in the airspace and local weather conditions.** "As one of the first U.S. airports to deploy the STARS system, Des Moines is at the forefront of the Administration's efforts to create a new,

more modern aviation system in America,” said Assistant Secretary Bhatia.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot09304.htm>

14. *June 23, Federal Computer Week* — **Legislators push for transit security funding.** House lawmakers said this week they are concerned that public ground transportation systems get far less federal funding for security than aviation, despite the fact that they carry eight times as many passengers on a daily basis. "Transit systems are particularly vulnerable to attack because they have open access with frequent stops and transfer points, and serve high concentrations of people in crowded areas," said Rep. Thomas Petri (R-WI), who is chairman of the Highways, Transit and Pipelines Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, during a June 22 hearing. **About 14 million people use public transit daily in the United States, but such systems have received only \$115 million in the past two years for security-related measures, said Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC). On the other hand, air carriers handle about 1.8 million passengers daily, but the aviation industry has received about \$11 billion during that same time.** Chet Lunner, assistant administrator of the Transportation Security Administration's Office of Maritime and Land Security, said the Homeland Security Department's fiscal 2005 budget proposes \$1.45 billion for transit agencies through the Urban Area Security Initiative program, although not all of it is earmarked for security efforts. Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0621/web-rail-06-23-04.asp>

15. *June 23, Computerworld* — **Boeing's in-flight broadband launched in Asia. In-flight broadband Internet access was launched in Asia on Wednesday, June 23, with the takeoff of Lufthansa flight 715 from Tokyo to Munich. The service is based on The Boeing Co.'s Connexion by Boeing offering, and its launch in Asia follows Lufthansa AG's rollout on its flight between Munich and Los Angeles last month. The service uses a wireless LAN on board the aircraft and connects through a satellite link to offer passengers a shared Internet connection with downstream capacity of 5Mbit/sec. and upstream capacity of 1Mbit/sec. Lufthansa will offer the service every day on flights 714 and 715 each way between Munich and Tokyo. Users have a choice of two payment options: \$29.95 for the entire flight, or \$9.95 for 30 minutes of access and then a per-minute fee of 25 cents. Later this year, the airline plans to expand the service to other flights serving Asia, including flights between Germany and Osaka, Japan, and between Germany and China, as well as on routes to India, the Middle East and Canada.** Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/mobiletopics/mobile/wifi/story/0.10801.94032.00.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *June 23, Reno Gazette-Journal (NV)* — **Power outage stops mail. Many residents who live outside the Reno-Sparks area, in Nevada, won't get their mail delivered until Wednesday, June 23, because of a power outage, according to the U.S. Postal Service.** A power outage at 8 p.m. Monday, June 21, at the main Reno processing plant caused the one-day delay, said Roger Wagner, a spokesman for the Postal Service. It affected all classes of mail, including first-class, direct and catalog mail, he said. "The Reno area is not affected as much as outside areas," Wagner said. Power was restored about 4 a.m. Tuesday, June 22, but officials still don't know what caused the outage, Wagner said.

Source: http://www.rgj.com/news/stories/html/2004/06/23/73812.php?sp1=rgj&sp2=News&sp3=Local+News&sp5=RGJ.com&sp6=news&sp7=local_news

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Agriculture Sector

17. *June 23, Ventura County Star* — **Disease fears trigger destruction of orchard. A Ventura, CA, tangerine grove suspected of containing a bacteria that could cripple citrus production has been destroyed after officials said a farmer smuggled Japanese tree specimens into the country.** Tests so far have not shown any traces of citrus canker, which once decimated Florida's orange production, in Ventura County or elsewhere in California, but more tests are under way at the farm. Citrus is a \$300 million industry in Ventura County. Federal officials are pursuing criminal charges of smuggling against the farm owner, who lives in Japan, said Alan Laird, deputy agricultural commissioner for Ventura County. The plants bound for Ventura County were intercepted by customs officials in San Francisco about three weeks ago, before they reached the orchard, and subsequently tested positive for citrus canker, Laird said.

Source: http://www.venturacountystar.com/vcs/county_news/article/0,1375,VCS_226_2984125,00.html

18. *June 23, Agricultural Research Service* — **Pepper lends nematode resistance to double-cropped vegetables.** The Charleston Belle pepper developed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues to impress researchers with its ability to resist major root-knot nematodes afflicting the southern United States. **A recent ARS study not only confirmed the effectiveness and heat tolerance of Charleston Belle's resistance gene, but also found that the gene benefits nematode-susceptible vegetables rotated with the pepper.** In the study, led by ARS plant pathologist Judy Thies, Charleston Belle dramatically outperformed its susceptible parent, Keystone Resistant Giant, in field tests. **Not only did it repel nematodes, it also protected subsequently planted (double-cropped) susceptible squash and cucumber crops.** The research showed that Charleston Belle exhibited minimal root galling from nematode attack. Charleston Belle also helped the double-cropped cucumber and squash plants produce bigger yields and heavier fruit than when the two were grown following the Keystone variety.

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2004/040623.htm>

19. *June 22, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Hogs and sheep enter Mexico. U.S. hogs and sheep began entering Mexico again Monday, June 21, under temporary conditions after a brief halt in trade due to a new Mexican inspection law implemented June 17, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokesperson said Tuesday, June 22.** USDA spokeswoman Julie Quick said, "Mexican officials are facilitating temporary measures so that they can inspect the animals on the Mexican side of the border." She said she did not yet know details on those "temporary measures." **Up until June 17, officials had always performed the inspections on the U.S. side of the border for hog and sheep shipments to Mexico, but the change in Mexican regulations called for inspections of the U.S. hogs and sheep to be done inside Mexico even though no facilities had yet been built.** USDA spokesman Ed Loyd said late Monday, June 21, that the newly implemented Mexican law had effectively shut out shipments

of U.S. hogs and sheep. Quick said the temporary measures set up by Mexico to avoid trade stoppage are designed only as a short-term fix. "A long-term fix would require legislative action (in Mexico)," she said. The U.S. exported more than 120,000 head of hogs to Mexico in 2003, worth about \$22 million, according to data provided by the National Pork Producers Council.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=25823

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Food Sector

20. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Green onion imports still on hold. Two Mexican growers implicated in last year's deadly hepatitis A outbreak in western Pennsylvania cannot resume shipping green onions to the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said. Inspectors who visited Tecno Agro Internacional and Agro Industrias Vigor between June 1 and June 4 did not find the virus in the water supply, but found continued problems with water quality as well as food safety and hygiene practices of workers, an FDA spokesman told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The FDA said such practices "could potentially lead to another pathogen outbreak." The U.S. banned shipments of green onions from these and two other companies during its investigation of the hepatitis A outbreak at a Chi-Chi's Restaurant in Pittsburgh. The outbreak affected 660 people and was blamed for four deaths.**
Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/06/23/health/main625545.shtml>

21. *June 22, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — **Ground beef recall. Wolverine Packing Company, a Detroit, MI, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 101,600 pounds of fresh ground beef products that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. All of the products were produced on June 15, 2004 and were shipped nationwide to foodservice distributors. The problem was discovered through microbiological testing at a supplier to Wolverine Packing Company. The Food Safety and Inspection Service has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product. E. coli O157:H7 is a potentially deadly bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea and dehydration. The very young, seniors and persons with compromised immune systems are the most susceptible to foodborne illness.**
Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_019_2004_Releas/index.asp

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Water Sector

22. *June 23, News Journal (FL)* — **Regulators weigh private water rights. Florida state regulators began considering a plan Tuesday, June 22, that would allow a private company to sell water in a 50,000-acre area of rural Volusia and Brevard counties. Both counties are fighting the proposal. Attorneys for the counties and the city of Titusville tried to show that the landowners don't need to have a water utility. They said the land includes only a few homes. The company is seeking approval from the Florida Public Service Commission, which regulates the private water industry. After the hearing this week, the commission will receive a recommendation from its staff before deciding whether to allow the company to**

operate the water system. The debate comes at a time when water is emerging as one of the biggest — and most controversial — issues in the state. With Florida's rapid growth, city, county, and state planners are trying to make sure they have enough water to serve residents and meet the needs of other big users such as the agriculture industry.

Source: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/News/Enviro/03FloridaHEAD03062304.htm>

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Public Health Sector

23. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Health officials fear new mosquito disease. U.S. health officials are on the lookout for a mosquito-borne disease, fearing it could become a permanent part of the American landscape if it entered the country. Rift Valley fever, which originated in Africa, is the only disease at the top of both human health and agriculture lists of dangerous diseases.** The virus can kill people, with a near one percent mortality rate, making it deadlier than West Nile. But Rift Valley poses a greater threat to cattle and sheep. It kills up to 30 percent of the livestock it infects and if it were found in animals here, it would probably prompt livestock bans by other countries. **The virus is worrisome because at least 30 species of mosquitoes are capable of carrying it from cattle or sheep to humans, far more than the kind of mosquitoes that can carry West Nile. People also can catch it by handling the blood or fluids of an infected animal.** Scientists said that Rift Valley fever was being researched as a possible weapon during the Cold War and showed promise because of its stability in an aerosol form. The virus was first identified in a 1930 sheep outbreak in Kenya's Rift Valley in eastern Africa. For the next 70 years, it remained on the continent, emerging for the first time outside of Africa in outbreaks in Saudi Arabia and Yemen in 2000. In those cases, about 100 people died and 800 became ill.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apscience_story.asp?category=1500&slug=Rift%20Valley%20Fever

24. *June 23, Straits Times (Singapore)* — **Protein switch is key to fighting SARS.** National University of Singapore (NUS) researchers may have opened up a new front in the fight to develop anti-SARS drugs. **In investigating the 3C-like protease, the protein that causes the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus to multiply in humans, the NUS team has identified a section of it that must be "switched on" before replication can occur.** "Develop a drug to inhibit or block off this area, and we could kill Sars," said Song Jianxing, who explained his laboratory's findings to The Straits Times. The structural biologist added that much of the earlier research focused on shutting down another part of the protein — the one actually causing replication. Song's lab next hopes to develop a drug to capitalize on the discovery. The ideal result would be to block both parts of the protein.

Source: <http://straitstimes.asia1.com.sg/techscience/story/0.4386.257809.00.html>

25. *June 22, CIDRAP News* — **Ebola cases reclassified. Twelve of the 30 recent cases of a disease thought to be Ebola hemorrhagic fever in Sudan have been reclassified as measles, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced Tuesday, June 22.** The change means the Ebola outbreak included 18 cases with 6 deaths, instead of 30 cases with 7 deaths, the WHO said. The cases were reclassified on the basis of clinical presentations, epidemiologic findings,

and laboratory tests, including tests at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Measles cases have been present in the affected area and were reported to the WHO in March, the announcement said. Additional cases were detected because of the active surveillance system that was established for Ebola, officials said. The WHO said it is continuing to conduct lab tests and active surveillance and monitor contacts of patients. Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/vhf/news/jun2204_ebola.html

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *June 23, PRNewswire* — UTD to launch emergency readiness conference and exposition series. The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) will host a major "all-hazards" emergency readiness conference and exposition August 9 to 12 to promote better coordination of emergency preparedness and homeland security activities and to discuss a wide variety of other critical security issues facing both Texas and the nation. The conference, which is being produced by UTD's two largest schools, the School of Management and the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science, is scheduled to become an annual event and is believed to be the first regional gathering of its kind or scope held in the Southwest. The first-year event, officially named Emergency Readiness Conference 2004 (ERC 2004), will be held on the UTD campus and will embrace an all-hazards approach to emergency preparedness and homeland security. **While it will focus on aviation security, hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction and disaster medical management, a host of other issues such as multi-sector coordination, public/private partnering, the National Incident Management System, management strategies and the applications of communications and information technologies also will be addressed along with regional concepts of preparedness and consequence management.**

Source: <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/06-23-2004/0002198916&EDATE=>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

27. *June 23, Washington Post* — Largest ISPs attack zombies. The country's largest e-mail account providers called Tuesday, June 23, for a worldwide industry assault on "zombies," personal computers that have been unwittingly commandeered by spammers and used to send out unwanted e-mail and malicious programs. The Anti-Spam Technical Alliance includes America Online Inc., Yahoo Inc., Microsoft Corp. and EarthLink Inc. **Large Internet providers typically monitor traffic on their networks and pinpoint machines that are sending out inordinate amounts of e-mail. When such machines are found, some Internet**

providers block their Internet access until their owners come forward, at which point they are given help to remove the software code used by the spammers before being reconnected. The zombie problem, said representatives of the group, is going largely unchecked because other Internet providers are not taking such action. The proposal suggests that Internet providers that are quarantining zombies might reject all mail from networks that are not doing so.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A61759-2004Jun 22.html>

28. *June 23, ZDNet (UK)* — **Brits hit by surge in phone-charge Net fraud.** The number of British Internet users claiming to have fallen victim to premium-rate phone charge fraud has risen sharply. According to the UK's Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services (ICSTIS) some of the incidents behind the complaints may have been caused by dialers. Dialers are typically downloaded onto computers to allow access to pay-per-view Web sites, such as porn sites. It appears they are being installed without users' knowledge and are running up large bills by connecting to premium-rate telephone lines. **The percentage of Internet-related complaints about premium-rate services rose from 43 percent in 2002 to 70 percent in 2003, when calculated as a proportion of customers making complaints about high telephone bills,** ICSTIS said.

Source: http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105_2-5245078.html

29. *June 23, Reuters* — **U.S. charges AOL worker sold customer list for spam.** U.S. investigators said on Wednesday, June 23, they had arrested an America Online (AOL) employee for stealing the Internet provider's customer list and selling it to a purveyor of "spam" e-mail. **Jason Smathers has been charged with stealing a list of 92 million AOL customer screen names and selling them to Internet marketer Sean Dunaway of Las Vegas,** said David Kelley, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. Dunaway, who has also been arrested, used the list to promote his online gambling operation and also sold the list to other spammers for \$52,000, Kelley said. **Working as an engineer in AOL's Dulles, VA, headquarters, Smathers was able to access screen names, zip codes and credit-card types, though not credit-card numbers, of the company's 30 million customers,** Kelley said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=HFD1O5WJL00ZCCRBAEKSFEY?type=internetNews&storyID=5497807>

30. *June 23, Associated Press* — **Judge blocks Utah law banning spyware.** A judge has agreed to temporarily block enforcement of a Utah law that aims to ban so-called spyware. The preliminary injunction remains in effect pending the outcome of a New York pop-up ad company's challenge to the law's constitutionality. **Third District Judge Joseph C. Fratto Jr. ruled Tuesday, June 22, that WhenU.com Inc. proved that it would have sustained irreparable harm had the spyware law gone into effect.** WhenU provides users with free software like games and screen savers. The software comes with a separate program, SaveNow, that tracks Web traffic and matches a user's surfing habits with particular advertisers. Ads "pop up" when there's a match. The Utah law targets software that monitors computer users' Internet activity and sends that information elsewhere, in many cases without users' knowledge or consent. The law also seeks to curb pop-up advertisements, penalizing ads that obstruct Web pages at \$10,000 per violation. WhenU maintains that its advertising software, which is used by 21 million people each month, is only installed on computers with users' consent and does not gather private information. **State attorneys contend computer users often are tricked into**

accepting such software or are not fully informed of how it affects their computers.

Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1616470,00.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

Watch Synopsis: The Korgo virus is currently undergoing many variants in an effort to spread on the Internet. Part of the Korgo payload causes infected systems to download code from hacker-controlled websites. As these malicious websites are located and shut down by security personnel, new websites are created to host the malware. Ensure that your antivirus is up to date and check your logs for port 113 authentication requests to locate infected systems.

Current Port Attacks

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Top 10 Target Ports | 9898 (dabber), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 135 (epmap), 445 (microsoft-ds), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 137 (netbios-ns), 1023 (Reserved), 3127 (mydoom), 80 (www), 1026 (nterm) |
|----------------------------|--|

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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General Sector

31. *June 24, Associated Press* — Saudis offer militants one month amnesty. Saudi Arabia gave Islamic militants in the kingdom one month to surrender and save their lives, vowing to unleash the government's "full might" on extremist groups that have attacked foreigners. Crown Prince Abdullah, the kingdom's de facto ruler, issued the ultimatum Wednesday, June 23, in the name of King Fahd, his ailing half brother. Abdullah said the amnesty offer was open to anyone who has not yet been "arrested for carrying out terrorist acts." **Under the amnesty, only those who committed acts that hurt others would be prosecuted, and no one who turns himself in would face the death penalty.** In Saudi Arabia, the wave of violence began May 12, 2003, when car bombs targeted three compounds housing foreign workers, killing 35 people, including nine suicide bombers. Since then, the kingdom has suffered a series of suicide bombings, gunbattles, and kidnappings. But the beheading of American engineer Paul M. Johnson, who was kidnapped in Riyadh on June 12, brought a vicious new edge to the attacks and heightened fears that the violence could drive out American and other Western workers vital to Saudi Arabia's oil and other industries.

Source: http://abcnews.go.com/wire/World/ap20040624_240.html

32. *June 24, Associated Press* — **Blast ahead of Bush's Turkey visit. A small bomb exploded Thursday, June 24, in front of the hotel where President George W. Bush is expected to stay when he visits Ankara for meetings with Turkish leaders.** Police had been notified of a suspicious package on the street some 75 yards from the entrance to the hotel. The bomb exploded as officers approached the package to investigate. Several ambulances were seen rushing to the scene. Police sealed off the street and were towing away vehicles parked there as a security precaution. President Bush is scheduled to arrive in Ankara late Saturday, June 26, and meet with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and President Sezer on Sunday, June 27. President Bush is visiting Ankara ahead of a NATO summit Monday, June 28, in Istanbul. Concerns about security have grown in Turkey since last November, when four suicide truck bombings killed more than 60 people in attacks on two synagogues, the British consulate, and a London-based bank.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/06/24/turkey.blast.ap/index.html>

33. *June 22, Global Security Newswire* — **Greek chemical experts trained by Swiss for Olympics. Switzerland has joined the group of nations providing anti-WMD training and support to Greek authorities in advance of the Summer Olympics in Athens,** Swissinfo reported on June 21. The Swiss Defense Ministry said it trained Greek weapons experts to quickly analyze forms of chemical weapons used in a potential attack. Switzerland is also sending chemical protection gear to Athens in advance of the games. The equipment would support the 18-person Greek unit, not the general public, said Defense Ministry spokesman Bernard Jeanty.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/d/5fnewswire/issues/2004/6/22/9aa83406%2D4a6b%2D42e3%2D946e%2Df1ccec4e1f95.html>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP Web page (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Alerts – Advisories and Information Bulletins: DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues.

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports.

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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